

ELLA

Summary: Worldwide activity on the development of the Information Society is being heavily hampered by the difficulty of integrating e-Infrastructures in different continents with the exception of North America. ELLA will run a Feasibility Study to build a state-of-the-art communication infrastructure connecting Europe and Latin America, with the further objective of facilitate and trigger the creation of a private consortium – with possible minor contributions from public sources – to put the infrastructure into reality.

A whole range of activities to this extent will be performed:

- Technical feasibility study
- Assessment of the market and of its perspectives from the commercial and the points of view
- Clarification of the financial framework

Other activities will be directed to maintain the interest in the project high and to try and create a kernel for the consortium that will have to build and operate the cable.

Objectives: The objective of ELLA is to study alternatives to solve the lack of connectivity between LA and EU by promoting a greater competition between providers in the submarine cables market. Thus the results of this study, which it is hoped will lead to the building of a new efficient cable, will have the social impact of benefiting all users of such telecommunications services.

Action plan: A number of well-known commercial service providers have committed to support the activity of ELLA. ELLA partners will merge the experience of the consortium members in creating infrastructures for the research with the enormous knowledge available from these commercial supporters of the initiative to explore the possibilities and options to create a consortium between commercial providers and public and research entities to build and manage the new cable infrastructure.

Coordination and/or support activities: The ELLA study is an initiative of a consortium of Research and Education Networks (RENS) from Europe and Latin America, which have been working for several years to provide network support for e-Infrastructures used for scientific and technological collaboration between the two regions. This work became more intense, beginning in 2003 with the approval of the ALICE project, funded by DG-EuropeAid, which enabled the establishment of direct network links between GÉANT in Europe and the RedCLARA network in Latin America. GEANT has been recognized worldwide as a landmark for the European Research community and ALICE has been highly successful in terms of its objectives of improving network support for EU-LA e-Infrastructures. ELLA will make its contribution in the direction of the integration of the services provided by the two initiatives to the community at large.

User communities: The result of a new cable initiative will be that the research and education communities of the two continents could accrue great advantages for future costs of connectivity between EU and LA by acquiring an “investor relationship” in a new cable initiative.



Project acronym:
ELLA

Contract n°: RI-283396

Project type: CSA-SA

Start date: 01/04/2011

Duration: 15 months

Total budget:
460,000 €

Funding from the EC:
400,000 €

Total funded effort in person-month:
47

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Project participants:

GARR	Italy
CLARA	Uruguay
RNP	Brazil
FCCN	Portugal
RED.ES	Spain
Innova.T	Argentina

Keywords:
Feasibility Study,
Infrastructure,
Submarine Cable,
Europe to Latin
America Link

Collaboration with other EC funded projects:
ALICE2

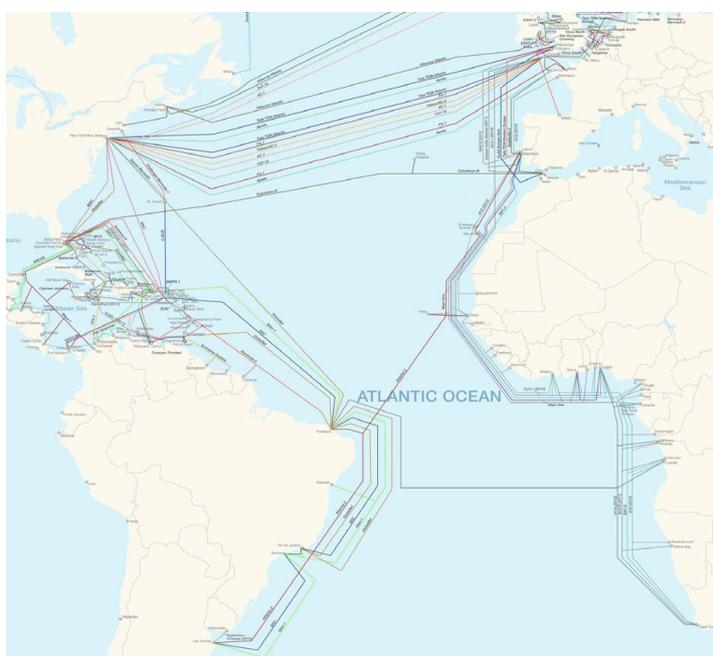
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International aspects: There are several drawbacks in using the longer route via the USA. The most obvious one is the cost, since more cable resources are used, due to the much greater distances involved. On the technical side, there is a large increase in end-to-end propagation delay, also due to the much longer cable distances. This has a direct negative effect on interactive traffic, and also affects high-volume data traffic in IP networks, which are highly susceptible to inefficient use of long-latency links.

A timely installation of the new cable will be likely to generate a prompt return for the investment and, as a consequence, will be attractive to perspective commercial partners.

Other benefits of the building of a new direct cable connecting Europe and Latin America include increasing global connectivity, particularly through new paths to communications systems connecting Europe to Africa and Asia and a more robust intercontinental infrastructure, with the two alternative routes providing backup one to the other.

The increased availability of alternative solutions will also have the advantage of lowering the costs of EU-LA communications either directly, or indirectly by increasing commercial competition.



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